

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 047448
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 DOEE-00 OES-07 INT-05 /090 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:BPORTER:FLW
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
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O 232306Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XMB, BEXP, EFIN, BENC, OECD, UK, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON EXIM
KORI III AND IV FINANCING

1. NEW YORK TIMES STORY (HALLORAN) FEBRUARY 23 REPORTED
THAT SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON HAD ADVISED THE ROKG THAT HE
WOULD BLOCK THE EX-IM LOANS ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNLESS
SEOUL COOPERATED WITH ETHICS COMMITTEES' INVESTIGATIONS
(TESTIMONY BY KIM DONG JO AND OTHERS). STORY ALSO STATES
THAT STEVENSON HAD "REPEATED THE MESSAGE THROUGH THE STATE
DEPARTMENT TO SEOUL."

2. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER WILL MEET WITH STEVENSON FRIDAY,
AND PLANS TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH HIM. IN THE MEANTIME,
WE HOPE THAT THE KOREANS DO NOT
OVERREACT SINCE STEVENSON'S EXACT POSITION MAY NOT BE
ACCURATELY REFLECTED IN THE STORY. WE WILL GIVE YOU A
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FURTHER READING WHEN AVAILABLE.

3. SUBJECT OF TIMES ARTICLE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT RAISED AT
NOON PRESS BRIEFING, BUT FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED
AND IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

QUESTION: SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, IS REPORTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WILL BLOCK A \$500 MILLION EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN TO KOREA UNLESS THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT ALLOWS THE COMMITTEE ACCESS TO FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG JO AND FOUR OTHER SENIOR KOREAN OFFICIALS. WILL YOU COMMENT?

ANSWER: WE BELIEVE THAT THE SEPARATE ISSUES OF EX-IM BANK LOANS AND TESTIMONY OF KOREAN OFFICIALS EACH ARE SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ON THEIR SEPARATE MERITS. HOWEVER, THE U.S. POSITION ON ATTEMPTS TO FORCE PRESENT OR FORMER DIPLOMATS TO TESTIFY IS CLEAR AND ON THE RECORD. I REFER YOU TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 6, 1978.

QUESTION: SENATOR STEVENSON IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE HAS INFORMED THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT OF HIS POSITION THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

ANSWER: I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT SENATOR STEVENSON HAS SAID. END QUOTE
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, LOANS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE047448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BPORTER:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0658
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780220/aaaaaquc.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 783208d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3499584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON EXIM KORI III AND IV FINANCING
TAGS: BEXP, EFIN, BENC, SOPN, UK, US, OECD, XMB
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/783208d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014